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The Swiss Observer

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The President of the Argentine Republic, Monsieur Arturo Frondizi, accompanied by his wife and a number of high government officials, has paid a two-day official visit to the Swiss Confederation.

On his arrival at the Kloten airport he was greeted by Federal Councillor F. T. Wahlen, Divisional Colonel Fontana (who acted throughout the visit as aide-de-camp), Dr. R. Aman, Chef du Protocol, Dr. Meierhans, President of the Government of the canton of Zurich, Dr. E. Landolt, Mayor of the town of Zurich, and the Argentine Ambassador in Berne.

A military band played the Argentine and Swiss national anthems, after which the President inspected the Guard of Honour. The President and his suite then boarded the special train *en route* to the Swiss capital, where they were greeted at the Berne railway station by Monsieur Max Petitpierre, President of the Swiss Confederation, who was accompanied by Madame Petitpierre, the President of the Bernese Government, and the Mayor of the town of Berne.

After a short stay at the Argentine Embassy the distinguished visitors drove in open carriages to the Palais Fédéral. Large crowds watched the procession, which wended its way through the gaily decorated streets.

On the arrival at the Parliamentary buildings a military band played the Argentine national anthem, and after the two Presidents had inspected a Guard of Honour, Monsieur Frondizi and his suite were conducted to the Foyer of the National Council, where they were received by the members of the Federal Council *in corpore*.

Monsieur Petitpierre in his address of welcome stressed the friendly relations which existed between the two countries, saying that the visit was greatly appreciated both by the Swiss Government and the entire Swiss population.

President Frondizi in his reply thanked the Federal Council for the friendly reception accorded to him, and referred to the long-standing and happy relations which have been maintained in the past.

A luncheon was offered to the President by the Federal Council at the Schweizerhof, at which Federal Councillors F. T. Wahlen and W. Spühler were present, also in attendance were Minister Dr. E. Stoppel of the Commercial Division of the Federal Political Department, and Dr. V. Umbricht, Director of the Federal Finance Administration. After the luncheon various economic problems were discussed concerning the two countries. The Argentine President was then driven to the "Lohn" — the official residence during his visit — where he received the diplomatic representatives accredited to the Confederation.

The first day of the visit terminated with a State Banquet at the Hotel Bellevue Palace, at which were present all the members of the Federal Council, the two Presidents of the Federal Chambers, the Presidents of the Governments of Zurich and Berne, the mayors of Zurich and Berne and a number of high government and military personalities.

On the second day of the visit, President Frondizi held a Press Conference, and afterwards attended the General Meeting of the Argentine Chamber of Commerce. In the evening he gave a banquet to the Federal Council at the Bellevue Palace Hotel.

President Frondizi and his suite left the Swiss capital on Tuesday, 21st June, for Zurich and Paris.

* * *

Customs receipts for the month of May 1960 total 103.6 million francs; of this amount the Confederation (Bund) receives 75 million francs, or 16.3 million francs more than in May 1959. The receipts for the first five months of the current year, earmarked for the Confederation, amount to 248.3 million francs, or 65.7

CITY SWISS CLUB

Will Members please note that no meeting will be held during

AUGUST.

They will be advised in due course of the resumption in September next.

THE COMMITTEE.

million francs more than during the same period in 1959.

* * *

Cantonal Dr. Gerold Luethy, of Uster and Richterswil, has been appointed public prosecutor of the canton of Zurich in succession to Mr. Max Willfratt, who has been elected a member of the Superior Court (Obergericht) of Zurich. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The 1960 Music Prize of the town of Zurich, amounting to 8,000.— francs, has been awarded to the composer, Robert Blum, living in Bellikon (Ct. Aargau). [A.T.S.]

* * *

The Government of the canton of Zurich has made a donation of 50,000.— francs for the victims of the Chilean earthquake disaster. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The Zurich concern, "Gebrüder Fretz A.G.", printers, has celebrated its 100th jubilee. The firm was founded in 1860 by Rudolf Fretz. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Frau Witwe Barbara Guggenbühl-Schnorf, of Zurich, has celebrated her 100th birthday. [A.T.S.]

* * *

M. Henri Parrat, Socialist mayor of the town of Delsberg, has been elected Prefect of the Delsberg district with 3,427 votes; his opponent, M. Ernest Beuchat (Liberal), polled 2,695 votes. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Mr. Martin Baumann (18), of Liebefeld, nr. Berne, was killed on an ascent of the Nünernen (Gantrisch district). [A.T.S.]

* * *

The Niesen Railway (Bernese Oberland) has recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of its existence. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. phil. Gerd Padel has been elected Director of the "Schweizerischen Kurzwellendienst" in succession to Mr. Paul Borsinger, who is retiring from his post.

Dr. Padel was born in 1921, and is a citizen of Zurich. He studied History, Literature and Journalism at the Universities of Zurich and Berne. After an extended stay in the United States of America he returned to Switzerland, and was from 1952 to 1956 general secretary of the International Press Institute, Zurich. In November 1956 he was appointed Vice-Director of the "Schweiz. Kurzwellendienst".

[A.T.S.]

* * *

The accounts of the canton of Schaffhausen for 1959 close with a debit balance of 249,987.— francs.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

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Dr. Christianus Caminado (85), bishop of Chur, has celebrated his 60th jubilee as a priest. [A.T.S.]

The town of Chur, capital of the canton of Grisons, on 11th June 1930 numbered 25,000 inhabitants.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

The Society for Archaeology and History, of the canton of Neuchâtel, has awarded the "Fritz Kunz Prize", given each year to a writer or historian, to Mme. Dorette Berthoud. M. François Faessler, formerly President of the Grand Council of the canton of Neuchâtel, has been elected President of the Society.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

M. André Sandoz (Socialist) has tendered his resignation as a member of the government of the canton of Neuchâtel.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

The "Ortsbürgergemeinde" of the town of Kaiserstuhl has bestowed honorary citizenship on Herr Fritz and Frau Mathilde Richner-Eggimann for services rendered to the town. Herr Fritz Richner is president of the board of the "Schweizerische Bankgesellschaft". [A.T.S.]

* * *

The executive council of Neuchâtel has elected M. Fernand Martin (Liberal) as its President, and M. Philippe Mayor (Liberal) as Vice-President. [A.T.S.]

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Investigations by the Swiss police, working in close collaboration with the French, have led to the arrest of a number of persons, all French, in Geneva and Marseilles, in connection with an armed hold-up in Geneva seventeen months ago, when about £120,000 was stolen from a mail van in front of the Swiss National Bank. Later, about £12,000 was taken from a bank messenger. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The 28th Federal Singing Competition was held at Geneva from 17th to 28th June. On Sunday, 19th June, the "Sängerfahne" arrived by special train from St. Gall (venue of the last competition).

To receive the banner, there were assembled at the station M. M. Petitpierre, President of the Swiss Confederation, accompanied by the Geneva cantonal and municipal authorities, and members of the organisation committee. A procession numbering over 2,000 persons afterwards wended its way through the gaily beflagged streets to Plainpalais, where the opening ceremony took place. In the evening the official banquet was held under the presidency of National Councillor Guinand. The gathering, comprising over 3,000 competitors, was addressed by Monsieur M. Petitpierre, and by M. Jean Treina, President of the Government of the canton of Geneva. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The Government of the canton of Geneva and the administrative council of the town of Geneva arranged a small celebration for the handing over of a cheque of 804,665.— francs, the result of a collection made in the canton and the town of Geneva, for the benefit of world refugees. Amongst the numerous personali-

ties present was Dr. A. Lindt, UNO High Commissioner for refugees. [A.T.S.]

* * *
M. Jean Möri, Secretary of the Swiss Federation of Trade Unions, was elected Vice-Chairman of the governing body of the International Labour Organisation, in succession to Sir Alfred Roberts. [A.T.S.]

* * * DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Martin Lauterburg, well-known painter, in Berne, at the age of 69. The deceased studied Philology and Philosophy at the University of Neuchâtel, but later changed over to painting. In 1910 he went to Munich, where he remained until 1935, after which he returned to Berne. Lauterburg was honoured by the "Münchner Akademie" with honorary membership in 1958.

Ernst Nievergelt, senior partner and president of the board of a large concern producing electrical instruments in Dübendorf, in Zurich-Wollishofen, aged 66. He was for sixteen years a member of the "Kantonsrat" Zurich.

Joh. Wickle-Ruet, inventor, in Eschlikon, at the age of 81.

Henri Henseler, the oldest citizen of Zurich, aged 101.

François Baud, sculptor and writer, in Geneva, at the age of 71.

Johannes Winzeler, in Schaffhausen, aged 81. He was from 1930 to 1953 Mayor of the town of Stein a. Rhein, and a member of the Grand Council of the Canton of Schaffhausen. He sat in the National Council from 1925 to 1928, and in the States Council from 1929 to 1947.

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Hans Bissig, General Manager of the "Zellweger, A.G." Uster, in Uster, at the age of 73.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

ANNIVERSARIES.

Otto Wirz (70), Notary of Berne. He was from 1924 to 1959 a member of the Municipal Council of Berne, and from 1946 to 1954 a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Berne. He has rendered many services to Bernese industry.

Minister Dr. Jean Hotz (70), of Uster, formerly Director of the Commercial Division of the Federal Economic Department. He has conducted many important negotiations in various countries in the capacity of "Delegate of the Federal Council for Commercial Treaties". In 1947 he received the title of Minister.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

ARMY.

Divisional Colonel Petry, "Waffenchef" of artillery, and Colonel Schaefer, a member of the Instruction corps (artillery), have paid a visit to the West German artillery school in Idar-Oberstein.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

LEGACIES AND DONATIONS.

The Brotherhood "St. Margarethen" of Solothurn has received a donation of 10,000.— francs from Mrs. Marie Herzog-Isch for the renovation of the old hospital church.

Brigadier Adolf Kunz, late head of the "Eidg. Kriegsmaterialverwaltung", has left 160,000.— francs to the "National Spende".

The "Krankenheim Rehala" in Zurich has received an anonymous donation of 250,000.— francs, the money to be spent on extensions.

The late Mr. and Mrs. H. Hauser-Steinmann, of Biel, have bequeathed 35,000.— francs for a foundation to support poor and ailing children.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. and Mrs. George Stunzi of La Chaux-de-Fonds, and Mr. and Mrs. Scherrer-Hug of Walenstadt.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS.

A motor-car collided with a train between Saland and Bauma, on a clearly marked level-crossing. The driver of the car, Albert Rutishauser (63), a farmer, of Egnach (Ct. Thurgau), and his niece, Ursula Schnellaas (3), of Bauma, were killed.

Two people were killed when a tractor collided with a marking stone near Disentis. They were Robert Manetsch (20) and his sister Pauline.

Between Littau and Malters, two motor-cars were involved in a collision which caused the death of Alois Kaech, chaplain, and of Balthasar Erni (25), builder, of Ebikon.

The car driven by Mr. André Wyss (29), of Geneva, on overtaking another car near Geneva, collided with a lorry. Mr. Wyss received fatal injuries.

[A.T.S.]

VARIOUS.

The General Programme of the Lucerne International Music Festival has just been published. There are to be nine symphony concerts, an extra concert, and a concert with choir and orchestra between 13th August and 8th September 1960. Two concerts by the Festival Strings Lucerne, two Mozart serenades in front of the Lion Memorial, a serenade for wind instruments, two organ recitals, three lieder recitals, two sonata recitals, a quartet recital, a piano recital and a harp recital complete the programme. Apart from the Swiss Festival Orchestra and the Philharmonic Orchestra of England, the NHK Symphony Orchestra of Radio Tokio will take part for the first time. The programme is published in German, French, Italian and English, and can be obtained from the agencies of the Swiss National Tourist Office.

* * *

On 13th October 1960 St. Gall's "Olma" Agricultural Fair will open for the 18th time. Agricultural products, machinery and equipment will be the principal exhibits. Practical demonstrations and instructive film-shows will be given. A special attraction for the experts from home and from across the border will be the show of all four breeds of Switzerland's cattle. The Fair will close on 23rd October.

* * *

Europe's "highest" Sailing Regattas are held every year in late summer on the Lake of St. Moritz, a scenic gem of the Engadine, 6,000 feet above sea-level. The Swiss championships for dinghies of the "Olympia" and "Finn" classes (11th to 14th August) will be held in the course of regatta week (7th to 14th August).

* * *

Lausanne: The next Swiss National Exhibition, fixed to take place here in 1964, according to a tentative budget submitted by the organizing committee, is likely to cost some 82 million Swiss francs. This amount includes building and administration expenses. The last National Exhibition, which was held in Zurich in 1939, required a total expenditure of only 30 millions. The exhibition grounds, where construction work is already in progress, cover almost the entire area on the western outskirts of Lausanne. The exhibition will be made easily accessible for the expected millions of visitors by both road and rail. One major road of access will be the new Geneva-Lausanne motorway now under construction; a rail line will be built to serve the Exhibition's own railway station. The 250,000-square-metre area, which slopes gently down to the

lakeside gardens at Vidy, will be divided into two main parts affording rare architectural possibilities. The dividing line will be an artificial river with terraced cascades.

* * *

Avenches: Aventicum, an imposing ruined city which 200 years ago became known as the Helvetian Rome, is the ancestor of the tiny Swiss country town of Avenches, south of the lake of Morat. Little known to tourists, it is likely to be put on the sightseers' map this summer, when its picturesque Roman amphitheatre will be the site of an interesting theatrical production. The play to be produced was first shown at the Athens Festival of 1959. It is a three-act tragedy by the well-known poet and dramatist, Jean Le Marois, "Alexander the Solitary and the Milky Way", dramatizing the disappointments and conflicts of Alexander the Great. Marcelle Tassencourt is directing; the stage designs are by Jacques Marillier, and the music was written by Maurice Jarre.

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